



Case study: Alex



Overview

Alex, aged 16, attended Wilsthorpe School and worked with employability worker Lana on the Raising Aspirations programme during Year 11 (Sept 2019 – Aug 2020).

When Alex first met with Lana, he had no idea what he wanted to do when he finished Year 11 and how to start applying for college places. This was the main focus of the work that Alex and Lana did together on a fortnightly basis. Alex completed a self-evaluation with DEBP's skills star, explored careers websites and completed careers quizzes, and began to express an interest in Art and animals. This led Alex to decide, that his first choice would be to do a Level 1 in Land-based Studies and his back up option would be a Level 1 in Art and Design. Both courses were at Nottingham College and Alex applied to do his first choice early in the Spring term.

Before starting his new college course in September, Alex reached out to Lana for some reassurance and guidance. He told Lana some work experience had fallen through leaving him unable to do the Land-based Studies course. Instead, he was enrolling to do his back-up option, Art and Design, retaking his maths and English, and felt nervous about enrolment and his first day.

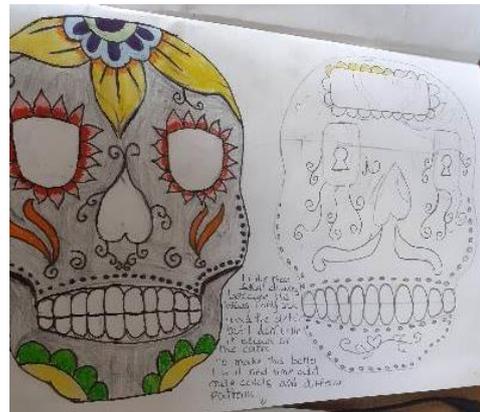
Lana reassured Alex that being nervous about something new is natural and they spoke over email the morning of enrolment to give him more confidence.

Lana reminded Alex that other students would also be retaking their GCSE Maths and English so he wouldn't be alone, but he should really focus on achieving these qualifications this year. After reassurance and continued support, as well as attending his enrolment day, Alex has been very positive about college.

Impact

From his work with Lana, Alex had a back-up option for his post-16 options. He felt confident in and was also able to intuitively apply for the course on his own. Alex knows that going to college is an important part in taking steps towards a positive and bright future.

Recently Alex has updated Lana to let her know that "college is alright and funny, doing some good art and already made some friends." He has even proudly shared pictures of his new student card and college artwork.



Alex said to Lana, "Thank you for your advice, your help is much appreciated, and you were always there for me. You helped me to find the right college course for me."

Future plans

Alex would like to complete a Level 2 in Art and Design after finishing his Level 1 course. He will also continue working towards achieving GCSE's in Maths and English. He hasn't decided on what job he'd like to work towards yet. However, he knows that there is support available from DEBP and his college when he needs to start thinking about this.

More information

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